

Today, the eyes of the world will turn to New Orleans for one of the biggest celebrations and over-hyped sporting competitions of the year: the Super Bowl.

This will be the latest game in history due to the delay adjustment of the NFL season in light of September 11. Yet, for all the marketing, planning, eating and promoting, only two teams will take the field with one chant in their hearts: V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

THE PROMISE LIFE

VICTORY

These two teams want to be the champions of the world. However, when the sun sets this evening, there will be one winning team and one losing team.

We all like to be winners! We like achievement and accomplishment. But all too often, believers fail to embrace and live a life already marked by victory.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save us from sins and to give us victory through His life in us!

This is why Peter the Apostle emphasizes "divine nature" in 2 Peter:

..."as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:3-4 NKJV, *bold added for emphasis*).

What is ours by promise today was shaped in prophesy long ago. When we read promises found in Scripture, we must not miss the promise of victory.

High five! We've got something to celebrate!

Victory was Promised in the Sinless Birth of Christ

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NKJV).

Jesus is the only One qualified to accomplish this victory.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15 NKJV).

In the National Football League, there are many good teams, but there are only two teams qualified to play in the Super Bowl once the playoffs are over.

One of the most crucial foundations of belief is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Why does the virgin birth matter? Jesus alone is the only One qualified as Sin Bearer.

"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4 NKJV).

Victory was Promised in the Saving Name of Christ

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2 NKJV).

Isaiah 9:2 describes a world of darkness in need of light. Jesus is the light, illuminating the darkness and providing a way of salvation.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV).

"... a child born... a son given." Jesus' name is the name above every name. No other can compete or compare. This is the name of the Champion!

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:8-11 NKJV).

... "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV).

Victory was Promised in the Sacrificial Death of Christ

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for

our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53: 5-6, 10-11 NKJV).

Jesus did what we could not do ourselves. Apart from Christ, we are without hope; but in Christ, hope is made secure.

Victory was Promised Through the Saving Life of Christ

Death was not the end. It was complete, it was satisfactory, it was full and final in payment, but not all.

"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall **prolong His days**, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand" (Isaiah 53:10 NKJV, *bold added for emphasis*).

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve" (1 Corinthians 15:3-5 NKJV).

The rest of the chapter in 1 Corinthians 15 gives the defense of the power and importance of the resurrection of Christ.

And then we read:

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NKJV, *bold added for emphasis*).

Victory is Promised to the Sinner Who Receives Christ

"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7 NKJV).

"So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard'" (Acts 4:18-20 NKJV).

... "how I [Apostle Paul] kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Acts 20:20-21 NKJV, *bold added for emphasis*).

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5 NKJV).

As we come together to the Lord's table, we recognize the Lord's Supper is a feast, not a tailgate party. It is a victory celebration!

This edited message was preached from the pulpit of Boca Raton Community Church, Boca Raton, Florida, on February 3, 2002, by David H. McKinley.

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